

cannot afford on a Web site that does not work. But let me say, it is not just the ObamaCare Web site that is broken.

President Obama has repeatedly told American families: If you like your current health insurance, you can keep your coverage. Just this week, it was revealed that President Obama and his staff have known for over 3 years that millions of Americans will lose their current health insurance because of ObamaCare.

Furthermore, families in my district and across the country are feeling the sticker shock from soaring premiums. They are seeing reduced benefits, and they are being forced to make difficult financial decisions. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and families across America do indeed deserve better.

□ 1215

FAKE VOTES PUT POLITICS AHEAD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, later today the House of Representatives will vote on legislation that would reject the debt ceiling increase that was passed by Congress earlier this month. This vote makes no sense.

Make no mistake, voting to reject the debt ceiling increase is a vote to default, and these are the same Members who just a couple of weeks ago decried the notion of America defaulting on its obligations and voted earlier this year for a budget resolution that spends \$700 billion more than it takes in in revenue. The logical consequence of this action is to raise the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve growth, the American economy needs stability and certainty, not fake votes that put politics ahead of the American people. Let's end this nonsense and get back to the work of creating jobs and nation-building right here in America.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, folks back home are frustrated, confused and, quite frankly, scared about this disastrous health care law.

Last week, Stephen from Plano sent me an email sharing his firsthand experience with the marketplace exchange. In short, operators on the 1-800 line had no answers to his questions. They simply reiterated he should wait until later that evening or the next day to apply since the systems were having technical issues.

Unfortunately, the problems go far beyond an unworkable Web site. Even

with 3 years of preparation and spending more than 1 billion taxpayer dollars, ObamaCare has failed to give the American people what they were promised.

Mr. Speaker, the American people were promised affordable health care, not for a select few, but for all. Now more than ever, we must work together to delay this law. Americans want, need, and deserve better.

STOP THE OBSTRUCTION AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the healthcare.gov Web site glitches are truly unacceptable, and they must be fixed as quickly as possible.

However, the majority party is not talking about fixing the Web site. They are fixated on criticizing the Affordable Care Act instead of helping the American public understand the act and receive the benefits of true affordable care.

Countless hours in committees, over 40 votes to repeal and delay, and millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on delaying, defunding and undermining this law. Throwing sticks into the spokes of the law will not help to make it better. I urge my colleagues to stop the obstruction and to be part of the solution.

STANDING AGAINST RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, last week Egyptian gunmen attacked a wedding at the Coptic Christian Church of the Virgin Mary, killing four and wounding many others. Among those killed were two young girls, a 12-year-old and an 8-year-old. As a father of six, I can't imagine the horror and pain of those families having to bury their two young children.

We have to ask: What was their offense? What was their crime, this 12-year-old and this 8-year-old? Their crime was, their offense was that they were practicing their faith, that they were Christians.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, Secretary John Kerry is going to be visiting Egypt. I call on Secretary Kerry to highlight during his visit the religious freedom abuses that have been occurring throughout Egypt. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has already named Egypt as a country of particular concern for religious freedom violations.

I call on every Member of this House to stand up against those who are attacking Christians around the world. It is our duty to stand with those who have been abused for practicing their faith.

CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA LYNX WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Minnesota Lynx basketball team. We are so proud that they, for the second time in 3 years, won the 2013 Women's National Basketball Association championship.

They swept the playoffs, winning every game decisively. And I was glad that ESPN broadcast the finals so everyone could see Olympian Maya Moore sink some beautiful three-point shots. She was joined in outstanding play by two other gold medal-winning Olympians, Seimone Augustus and Lindsay Whalen.

Former Gopher Janel McCarville's no-look behind-the-back pass and between the legs backwards-bounce-pass assist were two of the most exciting plays of the season.

I am proud of the Minnesota Lynx, but I am even more proud of Title IX. In 1973, this country made sure of equality for women in education, and that includes sports. The result is women in athletics that are amazing and entertaining.

I congratulate the Minnesota Lynx.

HONORING MAYOR JAMES R. BUCK

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to a friend of mine, Mayor James R. Buck, who has dedicated 45 years of service to the city of Grandville in the Second District; and the last 29 he served as mayor.

Mayor Buck has been recognized countless times for his leadership and commitment to west Michigan. Most recently, he received the Michigan Municipal League's Michael A. Guido Leadership and Public Service Award.

In addition to his role as mayor, Jim serves as the chairman of the Grand Valley Metro Council, which plays a leading role in fostering public and private cooperation to enhance quality of life in west Michigan.

Under the steady leadership of Mayor Buck, Grandville has grown and thrived. Grandville would not be the city it is today without Jim, and his impact will be felt forever and be recognized by all.

I want to personally thank my friend, Jim Buck, for his dedication and service to our community. Your long days and hard hours have helped put Grandville on the map as a destination to do business, visit and, most importantly, live. Mayor Buck, thank you for what you have done, not only for Grandville, not only for west Michigan, but for all of Michigan and our country. Enjoy the time off. Thanks, Jim.